

EYC Program Changes 2010 Frequently Asked Questions

Key Messages

1. The Ontario Early Years Centre – Carleton (OEYC), a program of the Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre (WOCRC), will be making program changes in order to better meet the needs of our community and remain consistent with best practices.
2. Over the last few months, we reviewed our human and financial capacity. This included a thorough review of the OEYC mandate and service objective, as well as new data including the Early Developmental Instrument, evolving community trends, changes in early learning sector and future opportunities to improve linkages and partnership with our community partners
3. Since the inception of the OEYC in 2002, there has been no increase in funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. As OEYC began facing funding issues, reduction possibilities became more of a reality. On April 1 2010, the OEYC will be reducing staff and therefore reducing OEYC services.
4. OEYC will continue to provide quality services based on funding provided and expand community development initiatives.

Why is the OEYC – Carleton reducing services?

Since its inception in 2002, there has been no increase in funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). However, there have been increased costs in maintaining programs, salaries, expenses, training, etc. As OEYC began facing funding issues, reduction possibilities became more of a reality. The OEYC will continue to provide quality services based on funding provided and expand community development initiatives.

What steps did the OEYC take to make this decision?

Over the last few months, we reviewed our human and financial capacity. This included a thorough review of the Early Years Centre mandate and service objective, as well as new data including the Early Developmental Instrument, evolving community trends, changes in early learning sector and future opportunities to improve linkages and partnership with our community partners. We are committed to maximizing existing resources to ensure the biggest impact possible.

When will these changes happen?

Beginning April 1st 2010, the OEYC will be reducing staff and therefore reducing OEYC services. April is the beginning of the WOCRC's fiscal year and management wanted to provide staff with sufficient notice regarding program changes.

What programs will be available after April 1st, 2010?

A new program calendar will be provided to all program participants. We will continue to offer some of our drop-in programs, story time and topic specific workshops. It is important to note that the frequency will be reduced. The OEYC will also offer community development opportunities, which will increase partnerships with other community organizations for program delivery and coordination opportunities.

What programs and services are being reduced?

The service cuts equal a 25-35% reduction in services. Reductions include: Toy Library in Kinburn; Corkery drop-in; Saturday drop-in; Monday afternoon drop-in at EYC; Tuesday morning drop-in at EYC.

How can the OEYC reduce services when people are turned away?

As mentioned, the OEYC has not received a funding increase since 2002. However, there have been increased costs in maintaining programs, salaries, expenses, training, etc. As OEYC began facing funding issues, reduction possibilities became more of a reality. The OEYC drop-in program is extremely popular and we acknowledge that service reduction will have an impact on service delivery. We encourage participants to ask a Family Resource Worker how they can start a playgroup in their neighbourhood.

How can the WOCRC add a 4th floor and cut programs at the same time?

The funding for the 4th floor was provided by the federal and provincial government as part the new infrastructure stimulus funding designed to create jobs during the economic downturn. The portion contributed by the WOCRC will be added to our current mortgage. Therefore funding is not being taken from WOCRC programming.

Are all EYCs cutting?

We do not know if other EYCs are reducing services. We do know that they are all struggling to maintain services based on the funding provided. Many are revisiting their programs and services, which may lead to changes in service delivery.

Why are services moving into schools?

A Schools First Policy was a priority and recommendation of the provincial government for Early Years Centres and is currently a priority of Best Start. The intention is to ensure that the location of first choice for expanded child care and for service hubs will be in schools. Best Start is an Ontario government initiative. The goal is to make sure that children in Ontario develop the skills they need to achieve success in schools. The Schools First Policy is also supported by renowned researchers Dr. Fraser Mustard and Dr. Charles Pascal. For more information visit: www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/topics/earlychildhood/index.aspx

What community development opportunities are being explored?

Service providers, representing child care, education, family support, health, early intervention and prevention, recreation and treatment, came together in 2008 and formed the Kanata, West Carleton and Stittsville Best Start Planning Group. Their mandate is to shape and influence the mapping of individual communities to provide families with better access to local services while increasing children's readiness to learn at school. Seven individual neighbourhoods have been identified and we, in collaboration with our partners, will be moving forward to ensure that access to services is improved and that children have opportunities to participate in programs and services in their neighbourhoods to increase their readiness to learn in school.

Who can I contact for more information?

All public and media inquiries should be directed to Cathy Jordan, WOCRC Executive Director, Phone: 613-591-3686, e-mail: jordan@communityresourcecentre.ca.



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